

LUMBER KING OF COUNTRY IS DEAD

Frederick Weyerhaeuser's Wealth Put as High as \$500,000,000.

HAD MILES OF TIMBER

Born in Germany He Started Work in Sawmill in Rock Island.

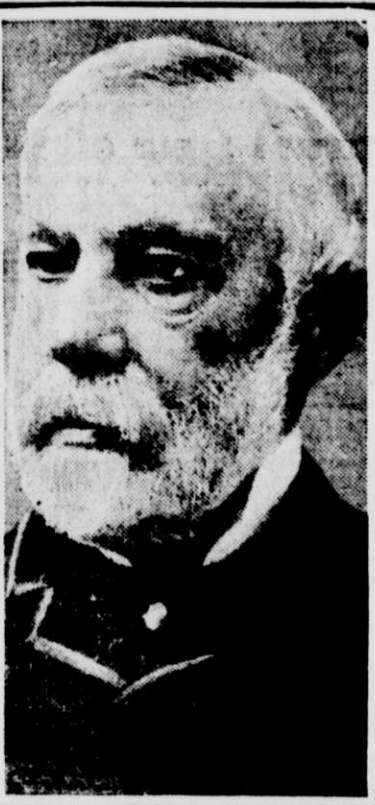
HEADED MANY COMPANIES

Although One of Richest Men in U. S., the St. Paul Capitalist Was Little Known.

PASADENA, Cal., April 4.—Frederick Weyerhaeuser, the wealthy Minnesota lumberman, died to-day in his winter home at Oak Knoll. He was 79 years old.

Mr. Weyerhaeuser caught cold a week ago while attending church. On Wednesday his condition became so alarming that his children were sent for. The final sinking spell came when it was believed that Mr. Weyerhaeuser would recover. The heart action became uncertain and neither oxygen nor any other stimulant availed to improve it.

His sons, John, Frederick, Rudolph and Charles, and his daughters, Mrs.



FREDERICK WEYERHAEUSER.

Margaret Jewett, Mrs. W. B. Hill and Mrs. S. S. Davis, were at the bedside when their father died.

The body was placed on a special train this afternoon and was sent to Rock Island, Ill., his old home, for interment. Mr. Weyerhaeuser's fortune is in timber and lumber interests.

Wealth Put at \$500,000,000.

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 4.—No one has been found who will offer an estimate of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's wealth. It is thought, however, that his accumulation will exceed \$500,000,000.

In Oregon he owned a tract of 600,000 acres of timber land, worth at a low estimate, \$7,500,000. In northern Idaho he had the control of five companies, whose assets are known to be \$26,000,000.

Through the rest of the North and West Mr. Weyerhaeuser owned the control of innumerable companies, worth from \$500,000 to \$10,000,000. Among the companies' holdings is a strip of 1,000,000 acres, bought from the Northern Pacific Railroad for \$6 an acre, now worth many times that.

He was president of the National German American Bank, St. Paul; Mississippi River Boom and Logging Company, Potomac Lumber Company, Chippewa Lumber and Boom Company, Cloquet Lumber Company, Tacoma Lumber Company, Little Falls Lumber Company, Mississippi River Logging Company, Northland Pine Company, Pine Tree Lumber Company, Musser-Saunrey Company, St. Croix Lumber Company, Shell Lake Lumber Company, Northern Wisconsin Lumber Company, Clippert Valley Lumber Company, Bonner's Ferry Lumber Company, Superior Timber Company, Weyerhaeuser & Rutledge Lumber Company, Duluth and Northwestern Railway Company, Minnesota Southern Railway Company and had holdings in various other enterprises in the West, South and Southwest.

Frederick Weyerhaeuser had been called the richest man in the world. His name had not been heard of as an accumulator of riches. Even in the eastern part of the United States perhaps not one man in a hundred could say offhand who and what Weyerhaeuser was, but in the West, and especially the Northwest, his name was a byword for wealth incalculable. The Northwest knows its lumber king, and knew him as their chief.

For twenty-three years he had been reaching out to get control of the great timber lands, and he had succeeded. He organized a great company of efficient managers and he used them steadily for this purpose. It is said that he kept his managers ignorant of dealings he had with their fellows. He tried to keep the outside world ignorant also, and the result is that very little is known of his personal direction of his affairs.

The natural development of the lumber industry and the opening up of the Northwest enabled him to acquire millions without much effort. He and his partners bought great tracts of land for a few dollars, made fortunes out of them and then sold them at an enormous profit. He would never tell just how much timber land he owned, but it has been estimated that his holdings covered 50,000 square miles, an area three times as large as the State of New Jersey. In money his wealth was never estimated with any degree of accuracy.

Mr. Weyerhaeuser was born in Neidenau, Germany, November 21, 1834, and was the son of John and Katherine Weyerhaeuser. When he was 18 years old he came to America and went first to Erie, Pa. Four years later he went to Rock Island, Ill., and got a job in a saw mill. Within six months he was manager of the plant.

Then he married Miss Elizabeth Bladé of Erie, Pa. She too, had been born in Neidenau. F. C. A. Denckman, who married Miss Bladé's sister, was a close friend of Mr. Weyerhaeuser. Mr. Denckman knew the mill and Mr. Weyer-

haeuser knew timber. They got a chance to buy the sawmill and gave their notes for it.

Then Mr. Weyerhaeuser went out to the timber lands of Wisconsin to scout for lumber. He went back to Mr. Denckman with Arabian tales of the wonders lying to the north, and they saved for the day when they would get their opportunity. In 1864 they bought a tract and put up new sawmills. Eight years later Mr. Weyerhaeuser formed the organization known as the Weyerhaeuser Syndi-

cate. He was elected president of the Mississippi River Boom and Logging Company and that company remained the plexus of his great lumber system.

He formed new companies. He bought lumber land. He never seemed to do the wrong thing. Finally he got about everything that was worth having in the Mississippi River lumber district. He was the dominating figure in every company. Some of them are the Atwood Lumber Company, Rutledge Lumber Company, Mississippi River Logging Com-

pany, Northland Pine Company, Pine Tree Lumber Company, Chippewa Valley Logging Company, Musser-Saunrey Company, Weyerhaeuser & Denckman, Colquit Lumber Company, North Wisconsin Lumber Company, Bonner's Ferry Lumber Company and Superior Timber Company. Mr. Weyerhaeuser directed the operations of these companies from St. Paul, Minn., whither he moved in 1891. With him was associated Robert L. McCormick, a man of his own type and one whom he trusted beyond all others. They became

known as the timber agents of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads. In 1897 Congress passed a rider to the sundry civil bill that permitted the holders of land within the forest reserve to relinquish their tracts to the Government and to select, in lieu of them, other tracts open to settlement. The result of that law was that the railroads relinquished thousands of acres of denuded land and got possession of timber lands. "The officers of the Northern Pacific, working through the Weyerhaeuser timber

companies," says a writer on this subject, "sold great tracts of these rich lands to the Weyerhaeuser syndicate for a song. Six dollars an acre is said to have been the ruling price. Mr. McCormick, the Weyerhaeuser agent in Tacoma, Wash., avows that that is what the company paid for 1,000,000 acres of Northern Pacific land lying west of the Cascades. It was one-quarter section out of this lot that sold for \$75,000, a profit of 2,000 per cent. in a few short years."

Similar transactions are recorded in sketches of Mr. Weyerhaeuser's career as a lumberman and capitalist. He was intolerant of Government interference. He once called Judge Landis a fool for fining the Standard Oil Company \$25,000,000 and he predicted that Mr. Rockefeller would never pay a cent. He denied that there was a lumber trust and asserted that high prices were due to the scarcity of lumber.

Mr. Weyerhaeuser's wife died November 29, 1911. They had four sons and three daughters.

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